

KEVIN ABERNATHY, 2881 Geer Road, Suite D., Turlock, CA.

With over 30 years of experience in the dairy industry, Kevin spent the last four years as the director of regulatory affairs for the Milk Producers' Council and prior to that was the executive director for the California Dairy Campaign. Recent activities include his work in evaluating practical and effective innovative approaches to reducing dairy air emissions and developing air quality regulations for dairies in the San Joaquin Valley. In partnership with environmental organizations, researchers, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the team is evaluating, demonstrating and fostering the adoption of several innovative and promising strategies for reducing agricultural air emissions. This is done in conjunction with supporting farm economics such as conservation tillage for improving dairy feed crop production yields, bio-energy production, and innovative physical, chemical and biological lagoon treatment technologies. He is also coordinating participation of dairy producers in on-farm research to quantify VOC and greenhouse gas emissions from feed sources for the purpose of improving the accuracy of dairy air emissions factors. By fostering partnerships between dairy producers and researchers, Kevin has helped to identify dairy air emissions sources and demonstrate cost-effective control strategies in the San Joaquin Valley.

Kevin Abernathy is also engaged in numerous education and outreach programs for both dairy producers and the general public. With support from a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant, Kevin established a team of professional agronomists, environmental chemists, hydro-geologists and engineers to assist members in developing and complying with new California CAFO air and water quality regulations. In addition to this team of professionals, Kevin also directs a team of field advisors that guides dairy farmers through the environmental permitting process, facilitates development of applications for EQIP funding, and actively recruits farmers to participate in the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP). Through his leadership, the California Dairy Campaign field staff are certified as 'evaluators' for the CDQAP, an education-based, farm certification program developed by the dairy industry in partnership with University of California, USDA-NRCS, EPA and state regulatory agencies. Through CDQAP, over 1,600 producers have attended numerous environmental education courses that have been instrumental in helping producers comply with increasingly stringent air and water quality and animal welfare regulations. In addition, hundreds of producers have chosen to complete a thorough on-farm environmental evaluation inspection process and achieved certification. Kevin also serves as a board member for Dairy Community Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES), where his primary responsibility is to represent the dairy industry in regulatory development, as well as to educate regulators, producers, and consumers regarding environmental issues related to California dairy farming. He is also working with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (SJVAPCD) Healthy Air Living Program designed to educate the public about how they can reduce air emissions.

Kevin Abernathy fosters an atmosphere of collaboration, mutual education and cooperation between the dairy industry, environmental organizations, researchers, the USDA, and local and state regulatory agencies in California. He provided critical leadership, communication and education through participation on the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) Dairy Producer Advisory Group. Through this group's efforts, the SJVAPCD developed regulations to reduce dairy particulate

matter, VOC, and ozone precursor emissions that are reasonable for farmers and are improving air quality. Kevin also serves on the Central California Ozone Policy Committee and the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association. In addition, Kevin serves as a committee member on various state and local committees and associations. These include the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Advisory Committee and their Environmental Steering Committee, and the San Joaquin Valley Dairy Manure Technology Assessment Panel.

Kevin represents the dairy industry at the federal and state levels on numerous issues concerning the industry's financial health and environmental performance. Since 2006, he served on the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force. He has testified before the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the International Trade Commission, and other state and federal decision-making and legislative bodies on dairy industry perspectives. Issues such as international trade policies that keep the U.S. dairy industry competitive globally, as well as strategies that can help dairies reduce air and water emissions were two major subjects on which Kevin has provided technical leadership. Kevin is also a member of the Western States Trade Producers Association. With a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry from Fresno State, Kevin has completed ongoing educational courses on air pollution in the Central Valley offered by the air district and Fresno State, as well as completing the Certification of Air Permitting Professional program for the purpose of providing assistance to producers on site-specific regulatory requirements.